

REMARKSClaims Rejections - 35 USC §102

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-4, 14, and 16 under 35 U.S.C. 102 (e) as being anticipated by Herbst, U.S. Patent. No. 6,938,580.

Applicant has amended claim 1 by limiting it to make clear that the formerly claimed means for reversibly connecting is a reversible fastener making a first connection to one of the secondary collar and the other of the first end and the second end of the primary collar, with a movable latch for reversibly attaching to complete a connection between the secondary collar section and the other of the first end and the second end of the primary collar section. This limiting amendment, which is clearly supported by the specification including the drawing, is distinguishable from the Herbst patent cited by the examiner. The reversible fastener of the instant device is a unitary fastener with a moveable latch, whereas the connector 40 of Herbst requires two elements: a connecting plate 28 and a pronged element 40 disposed at the end of a chain. When the independent prongs (arms) 40 are inserted into holes in the connecting plate 28, a connection is made. The specific limitation set forth by this amendment requires that the reversible fastener have a moveable latch for reversibly attaching which is patentably distinguishable from the reference cited by the examiner.

Reconsideration of rejected claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by the '580 Herbst patent, is requested in light of the amendments contained herein. Based on the foregoing, applicant requests that Claim 1, as amended, be allowed.

Dependent claims 2-4, 14, and 16 are dependent upon amended claim 1 and entitled to patentability on the same basis as the amended independent claim upon which they depend. Based on the foregoing, applicant requests that dependent claims 2-4, 14 and 16 be allowed.

Claim 6 has been objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim and would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claim. Claim 6 has been amended and rewritten in independent form including all

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the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims and allowance is respectfully requested.

Claims 9-12 and 17-22 have previously been allowed.


The remaining claims have been withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

It is therefore respectfully requested that the new claims be admitted in that they present rejected claims in better form for consideration for allowance and/or appeal, that the Examiner reconsider his rejection of same, or that the Examiner's action be made final with respect to this amendment.

For all the above reasons, applicant believes that all the claims be admitted presented in this application are allowable over the prior art, and an expedited procedure for allowance and/or rejection of the claims of the application is earnestly solicited. Formal drawings will be submitted upon notice of allowance.

Respectfully submitted,



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